

COUNCIL COMING ATTRACTIONS



Week of Oct. 12, 2020

COVID-19 Public Health Update, Coronavirus Relief Fund, Solar Collection System, Development Impact Taxes for Schools and Transportation, Single-Use Straws, Polystyrene Food Containers, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit

Council Coming Attractions is a summary of some of the issues before the Council. All Council staff reports and additional information on each item scheduled for Council or Committee review can be viewed at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>

The Council meeting schedule may change from time to time. The current Council and Committee agendas can also be viewed at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/ondemand/index.html>

The Council will hold virtual meetings on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 9:30 a.m.

COUNCIL

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update

The Council will sit as the Board of Health to receive an update on the County's ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its recovery efforts. The Council will be joined by Dr. Travis Gayles, County health officer and chief of the Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Public Health Services; Dr. Earl Stoddard, director, Office of Emergency management and Homeland Security; and Dr. Raymond Crowel, director, DHHS. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201013/20201013_5.pdf

Coronavirus Relief Fund

The Council will receive a briefing on the County's multifaceted approach to providing relief to families, local businesses and others who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council will receive a status report on appropriations and expenditures from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF).

Since all funds must be used by Dec. 31, 2020, it is important to track the County's use of the funds and whether any reallocations or additional appropriations are necessary. The Council also will receive an update on expenditures for the pay differential provided to certain employees, which could use a significant amount of CRF and General Fund dollars. Rich Madaleno, chief administrative officer, and Dr. Earl Stoddard, director, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, will brief the Council. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201013/20201013_9.pdf

ZTA 20-01, Solar Collection System – AR Zone Standards

The Council will review Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 20-01, which would revise the solar collection system use standards to allow larger facilities in the Agricultural Resource (AR) zone. The goal of this legislation is to increase the ability to produce solar energy in the County. Councilmember Hans Riemer and Council Vice President Tom Hucker are the lead sponsors. The total amount of collection systems on all parcels would be limited to 1,800 acres. Any collector system constructed under the proposed amendment must be designated pollinator-friendly under the Maryland Pollinator-Friendly Designation Program. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201013/20201013_10.pdf

PUBLIC HEARINGS

All Council public hearings will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Supplemental Appropriation #2-S21-CMCG-1 to the County Government's FY21 Capital Budget and Amendment to the FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program, Department of Environmental Protection - \$4,700,000 for Transfer Station Fire Detection and Suppression System

The Council will receive public testimony on a special appropriation of \$4.7 million to the Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Budget and FY21-26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for the Department of Environmental Protection. This appropriation would fund fire detection and suppression system improvements at the County's Solid Waste Transfer Station. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201013/20201013_7.pdf

Supplemental Appropriation to MCPS' FY21 Operating Budget - \$374,031 for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund - Innovative Approaches to Connecting with Students Project Grant

The Council will receive public testimony and is scheduled to vote on a supplemental appropriation of \$374,031 for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund. This supplemental appropriation is needed because Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) received funding from the GEER Fund—Innovative Approaches to Connecting with Students Grant. MCPS plans to use these grant funds to implement professional development to maximize student learning and instructional impact during remote and online instruction. Program participants include district leaders, administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals, community partners and family members. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2020/20201013/20201013_8.pdf

COMMITTEE

Development Impact Taxes for Schools and Transportation, and Recordation Tax Amendments

On Oct. 12 at 9:30 a.m. the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GO) Committee will continue their review of development impact taxes for schools and transportation and recordation tax amendments. The Committee will discuss impact tax credits for projects providing two- and three-bedroom housing units; the impact tax exemption for projects providing a minimum of 25 percent affordable units; and recommended changes to the recordation tax to provide additional funding for school construction and the County's Housing Initiative Fund. The individuals expected to attend the meeting include the following: Casey

Anderson, chair, Montgomery Planning Board; Gwen Wright, director, Planning Department; Tanya Stern, deputy director, Planning Department; Jason Sartori, chief, Countywide Planning Division, Planning Department; Lisa Govoni, housing policy coordinator, Countywide Planning Division; Hye-Soo Baek, senior planner, Countywide Planning Division; Meredith Wellington, Office of the County Executive; Mary Beck, Office of Management and Budget; Pofen Salem, Office of Management and Budget; and Essie McGuire, Montgomery County Public Schools. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20201012/20201012_GO1.pdf

Bill 32-20, Solid Waste (Trash) Waste Reduction/Source Reduction and Single-Use Straws – Requirements

On Oct. 12 at 1:30 p.m. the Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee will review Bill 32-20, which would do the following: establish a program for waste reduction/source reduction in Montgomery County; provide criteria for waste reduction initiatives and programs; set forth the method by which the program is established; prohibit the distribution of single-use straws except in certain circumstances; and post information that plastic straws will no longer be provided to a customer, except when necessary to accommodate a medical or disability-related need of a customer. Council President Sidney Katz is the lead sponsor of the bill, at the request of the County Executive. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20201012/20201012_TE1.pdf

#WasteReductionPlan is being used for this bill on social media

Bill 33-20, Solid Waste (Trash) - Food Service Products Packaging Materials - Requirements

The T&E Committee will review Bill 33-20, which would prohibit single-use polystyrene food containers including plates and cups, meat and vegetable trays, egg cartons and other products made of polystyrene that are used for selling, providing or serving food or drink.. President Sidney Katz is the lead sponsor of the bill, at the request of the County Executive. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20201012/20201012_TE2.pdf

#FoodPackaging is being used for this bill on social media.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES-MS4) Permit

The T&E Committee will close out its meeting with a briefing on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES-MS4) Permit, which requires permittees to develop and implement a comprehensive Storm Water Management Program that must include pollution prevention measures, treatment or removal techniques, monitoring and other appropriate measures to control the quality of storm water discharged into storm drains. On June 29, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) submitted its draft NPDES-MS4 permit for Montgomery County to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The permit would take effect in early 2021 assuming a final determination on the permit is made by the end of the calendar year. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is the lead department responsible for coordinating a multi-department/agency effort to meet the NPDES-MS4 permit requirements and will provide a briefing to the T&E Committee on the draft permit. The individuals expected to attend the meeting include the following: Adam Ortiz, director, DEP; Frank Dawson, chief, Watershed Restoration Division, DEP; Amy Stevens, manager, Stormwater Facility Inspection and Maintenance, DEP; and Kate Bennett, senior planning specialist, DEP. The Council staff report can be viewed here:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/cm/2020/20201012/20201012_TE3.pdf

2020-2024 Subdivision Staging Policy - School and Transportation Issues

On Oct. 14 at 9:30 a.m. the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee will review school and transportation issues related to the County's 2020-2024 Subdivision Staging Policy. The County's 2020-2024 Subdivision Staging Policy is based on having sufficient infrastructure to support new

development. In this meeting the committee will discuss school adequacy standards and the residential development moratorium. Under the current SSP, when schools reach 120 percent capacity utilization, the affected area goes into a moratorium, which means the Planning Board cannot approve new residential development. A moratorium lasts until the applicable school utilization drops below the moratorium threshold – typically evaluated at the next Annual School Test. The Council staff report will be available on Oct. 12.

Racial Equity and Social Justice

On Oct. 14 at 1:30 p.m. the GO Committee will receive an update on the activities of the County's Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. Last November, the Council unanimously approved the Racial Equity and Social Justice Act after holding community conversations with more than 1,000 residents and reviewing the analysis of the Council's Office of Legislative Oversight. This legislation was spearheaded by Councilmember Nancy Navarro, who then served as Council president. The Racial Equity and Social Justice Act created an official program for Montgomery County government, under the oversight of the newly created Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice. On July 28, the Council unanimously approved a special appropriation of \$260,961 for the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice, which was needed to support training for departmental staff, assist departments with policy examination of their processes and procedures, and to track and address each department's racial equity action plans and racial equity and social justice impact statements. The Council staff report will be available on Oct. 12.

Emergency Communications Center (General Operations and Text to 911)

On Oct. 15 at 9:30 a.m. the Public Safety (PS) Committee will receive an update on the Emergency Communications Center. The Emergency Communications Center is responsible for the effective performance of all emergency communications relating to a fire, rescue, or emergency medical incidents. From the joint Public Safety Communications Center building, the MCFRS Emergency Communications Center is the primary link between a citizen, who reports an emergency via 9-1-1, and the fire and rescue personnel and equipment, who respond to an incident scene. The MCFRS Emergency Communications Center dispatches all emergency fire, rescue and emergency medical resources in Montgomery County. The Council staff report will be available on Oct. 13.

Crime Trends and other Life Safety Issues during COVID-19

The PS Committee also will receive a briefing on crime trends and other life safety issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Council staff report will be available on Oct. 13.

Supplemental Appropriation - DHHS - \$864,029 to Increase Somatic and Mental Health Services at Montgomery County Public Schools

On Oct. 15 at 1:30 p.m. the Health and Human Services (HHS) and Education and Culture (E&C) Committees will meet jointly to review a supplemental appropriation of \$864,029 to the Department of Health and Human Services' FY21 Operating Budget to increase somatic and mental health services at Montgomery County Public Schools. The Council staff report will be available on Oct. 13.

Expansion of Educational Equity and Enrichment Hubs and Other Community-Based Distance Learning Supports for Students

The HHS and E&C Committees will review the expansive of Educational Equity and Enrichment Hubs, which aim to provide care and distance learning support for students, with enhanced health, safety and cleaning measures, and other community-based distance learning supports for students. The Council staff report will be available on Oct. 13.